

IV. Major Stations

The most useful urban rail stations are those that are located in the central business district or at the center of a city's economic activity. Commuters in Chicago, for example, coming in from surrounding suburbs, detrain at Chicago Union Station and North Western Terminal, then walk by the thousands across the Chicago River bridges to their jobs in the Loop and the Near North. In Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington DC,



Southern Railway Station, Greensboro, under reconstruction in 2002.

Philadelphia, New York and Boston, commuters transfer to various subway and light rail lines for the last leg of their trips to work. While intercity rail passengers will often access a not quite centrally located facility to begin a trip of some distance, commuters generally will not. The station must be within walking distance or a short transfer ride from their jobs.

Greensboro

The former Southern Railway Station in Greensboro is currently being extensively renovated and refurbished to serve as a major SEHSR station, intercity passenger facility and regional transit hub. Located at the edge of Greensboro's central business district it is within walking distance of many downtown businesses and government offices or just a short transit ride away. The station is in an ideal location to serve multiple passenger rail and transit functions since it sits at the junction of the NS main line from Washington DC to Atlanta and beyond; the NCRR main line from Raleigh to Charlotte; and the NS "K Line" to Winston-Salem.

High Point

In High Point, the Amtrak Station at Main and High Streets on the NCRR/NS main line is undergoing major refurbishing to update and modernize the structure while preserving its traditional exterior. A pedestrian bridge to the city bus transfer facility will be replaced as part of the project. Due to the station's location in downtown High Point within walking distance of the transit transfer point and many of the furniture showrooms, the High Point station can serve both intercity and commuter rail purposes equally well.